

South Bay Municipal Court Has Fifth Anniversary



COURT OPEN HOUSE . . . South Bay Municipal Court. Ernest Stout helps Judge Otto B. Willett into his judicial robes in preparation for the court's open house, held last Thursday evening. Judge Willett and Judge John A. Shilder held evening court and other officers were open in an effort to acquaint the public with the court's work.

South Bay Court Holds Open House

In observance of the fifth anniversary of municipal courts in California under the new court system, the South Bay Municipal Court opened its doors to the general public Thursday night, not just to traffic offenders and other lawbreakers.

Interested citizens turned out to take a look at the legal machinery in the court building at 1231 Pacific Ave., Redondo Beach. The week was proclaimed by Gov. Goodwin J. Knight as "Municipal Court Week."

Judges John A. Shilder and Otto B. Willett held court, hearing traffic cases, criminal trials, and small claims. Court Clerk Ernest W. Stout and his staff explained the operations of the court.

The local court is one of 57 throughout the state, as set up to replace some 800 justice and city courts, many with conflicting jurisdictions.

Municipal courts have jurisdiction in all misdemeanor and traffic violations and of felony preliminary examinations for crimes committed within the judicial district. They handle civil cases up to \$3000 and small claims cases up to \$100. Because of their jurisdiction,

municipal courts daily serve the greatest number of people involved in legal matters.

The South Bay Municipal Court serves Torrance, Gardena, Redondo, Manhattan, Hermosa, Brawndale, Palos Verdes Estates, and Lomita, with a separate branch of the court planned soon at the Torrance Civic Center.

Visitors at the court also received booklets describing the court machinery.

The Association of Municipal Court Clerks of California, Inc., of which Stout is an active member, is currently trying to establish uniform procedures, court records, and legal forms in municipal courts throughout the state. Currently, a variety of forms are used in different courts, leading to confusion.

The group also is preparing a state municipal court clerk's manual which will cover the duties and requirements of such work.

POLICE CHIEF ANNOUNCES HE'LL RETIRE ON APRIL 1

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Top Industrial Leaders Confer About Hospital

Executives of major Torrance area industries will meet Thursday to discuss immediate financial participation in the \$776,000 fund drive for the new Little Company of Mary Hospital.

The meeting follows a special session Friday of the Torrance Industries Tax Committee, where 20 representatives of leading industrial firms in the area gathered to discuss the proposed Torrance District Hospital, now being promoted by petitions in circulation locally to create a hospital district within the city limits of Torrance. Signatures of 15 per cent of the total of registered voters who voted in the last gubernatorial election are necessary to establish the district.

Announcement Due Industrialists attending the tax committee meeting declined to reveal what action had been taken, but said there would be a definite announcement concerning industry's attitude toward the proposed district hospital shortly after the Jan. 10 gathering.

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Three-Year-Old Dies of Burns In Home Blaze

Burns suffered in an accident at her home last month proved fatal Friday to Aurora Alvarez, 4, of 2568 W. 235th St.

The tot died at Harbor General Hospital of second and third burns that covered more than half of her tiny body.

Investigators said the youngster was playing with matches at her home on Dec. 7, when flames engulfed her clothing. The fire was beaten out by her grandmother.

PLANNERS DELAY CBS SPORTS CENTER PLAN

A controversy over whether apartment buildings should be built at the corner of Redondo Beach Blvd. and Ainsworth Ave. received a compromise recommendation from the Torrance Planning Commission Wednesday night.

The petition of Wayne L. Nelson, Gardena, for apartment zoning on 17 lots along Redondo Beach Blvd., drew fire from nearby neighbors,

who objected to the plans for two-story buildings which they felt would intrude on their privacy.

As a result, the planners recommended duplex zoning for the area in question, with the stipulation that the structures be limited to one story. The vote was 7-2, with Commissioners Bert Lynn and Laurence Wing voting no.

Plans Presented A representative of Barclay Engineering had presented revised plans for the two-story apartments, which would eliminate windows in the rear, but residents indicated that they were opposed to any zoning other than single-family residence.

The petition of the Columbia Broadcasting System for commercial zoning on the northeast corner of 190th and Hawthorne Ave. was held over for another two weeks, pending final determination of street locations. Plans are being made to locate a sports center, including a golf course and driving range, at the location.

Plan Studied Also receiving further study was the petition for planting zoning along the north boundary of the Torrance Sand and Gravel Co. Residents presented suggestions for improving the situation in the area including progressive planting of the banks and construction of a drainage area inside the gravel firm's property.

Inglewood Farms' request for a variance to permit addition and alteration to its milk processing plant at 3400 Del Amo Blvd. received an OK from the planners.

Dudley Gray's petition for a variance on the southeast corner of Plaza del Amo and Border Ave. to operate a mobile home park was held over for two weeks.

Also held over was the petition of the Planning Commission for a change of zone on seven lots in tract 10216 and

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OFFICIALS TOUR DOUGLAS . . . Secretary of the Navy Charles S. Thomas (third from right) tours the Torrance Douglas plant, accompanied by Donald W. Douglas Jr., vice president-military relations (second from right), J. D. Thomas, factory superintendent (right), briefs Secretary Thomas on the operation of the F4D Skyray final assembly line. Others (from the left) include Rear Admiral D. L. McDonald, Air Warfare Division, CNO; A. E. Raymond, vice president-engineering; Rear Admiral James S. Russell, Chief of the Navy's Bureau of Aeronautics, and E. H. Heinemann, chief engineer at the Division.

New Record For Construction Set Here in '56

The new record for building permits in Torrance, set last year, is \$46,482,900, according to final figures compiled last week by Walter Bradford, senior clerk at the City Engineer's office.

The new figure better the record set in 1954 by more than \$1,300,000. Although the December totals — \$344,182 — lagged considerably below the average, permits during the early part of the year pushed the city to a new record. In January, \$7,607,226 in permits were issued.

Residential construction accounted for \$32,942,858 of the total, with 3076 units accounted for in the totals.

City officials expect the record set in 1956 to stand for many years, since most of the large areas of open land left in the city were subdivided during the year, leaving many smaller parcels as the likely developments of the future. It is expected that business and industrial permits will make up a larger percentage of the totals in the future.

With the exception of 1955, when a sand and gravel strike virtually halted building activity for several months, building permits totals in Torrance have set a new record each year. The 1955 totals were \$42,575,940, while the previous year's record was \$45,068,552.

Quail Flying Into Wires Starts Blaze

A quail which apparently flew into a high voltage wire near 190th and Hawthorne Ave. last week caused a small grass fire, Torrance firemen reported.

The quail, which was electrocuted in the collision, caused the nearby transformer to explode, which in turn shattered the insulators which fell to the ground, causing a grass fire which burned a 100 by 200 foot area.

Secretary of Navy Visits Local Firm

Secretary of the Navy Charles S. Thomas conferred with Donald W. Douglas, president of the Douglas Aircraft company, and other top company executives here Friday on current and proposed aircraft for the Navy, during a visit to the Douglas El Segundo division.

The Secretary and his party toured the modern production facilities of the division's El Segundo and Torrance locations, where the A3D Skywarrior, F4D Skyray and A4D Skyhawk, three of the Navy's newest operational jet aircraft, are in production.

All of these carrier-based aircraft went into fleet service in 1956 and additional squadrons are being formed as deliveries are made to the Navy.

Others Visit Plant Included in Thomas' party were Rear Admiral James S. Russell, chief of the Navy's Bureau of Aeronautics; Rear Admiral D. L. McDonald, Air Warfare Division, Chief of Naval Operations; Captain D. J. Welsh, assistant chief, Plans and Program, Bureau of Aeronautics; and Captain F. W. Brown, head, Production Division, Bureau of Aeronautics.

Will Torrance Have Rose Parade Float?

Plans to enter a float representing Torrance in the 1958 Tournament of Roses at Pasadena are now being made, Dick Fitzgerald, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, said yesterday.

Request Made A request for an entry in the next New Year's Day extravaganza has been forwarded to the committee in charge, but no word has yet been received, he said. Entries are limited to 65 each year, and some are not accepted, he explained. Application does not mean automatic participation in the colorful tournament, he explained.

"This would be a great thing in publicity for Torrance

Chief Says He'll Quit Next April

Willard H. Haslam, member of the Torrance Police Department since 1934 and chief of the department since the retirement of John Stroth early in 1954, yesterday confirmed reports that he will ask to be retired by April 1 of this year.

Haslam was appointed to the top police post here on Feb. 9, 1954, by the City Council after he had finished No. 1 on the Civil Service examination for the job. He moved up to the job from his post of assistant chief.

Rose Through Ranks Chief Haslam joined the Torrance force in 1934 as a patrolman and rose through the ranks to be chief. He served as assistant chief from 1952 to 1954, and had previously served in all ranks including captain.

Before joining the city, Haslam had spent three years in the plant protection service at the General Petroleum Refinery here. He had worked for the city prior to that job, starting in 1927 with the street department.

To Go On Leave Haslam told THE HERALD yesterday that he had notified the city manager and members of the Council that he wanted to retire April 1. He plans to begin his annual leave on March 1.

"I like Torrance and I'm going to stay here," he stated.

His request for retirement will be considered by the Council at an early meeting.

Haslam and his wife, Mable, live at 1519 Amapola Ave. They have one son, Kenneth, and a daughter, May.

A successor will be chosen through Civil Service procedures.

Temperatures

Torrance had its first rain of 1957 and of the season this week, as 30 of an inch fell Friday and Saturday. A few sprinkles also fell on Thursday here.

	High	Low
Sunday	64	38
Monday	79	45
Tuesday	70	43
Wednesday	75	39
Thursday	67	41
Friday	60	45

Attempt to Form Hospital District Here Denounced

Torrance doesn't qualify as an "All America Hospital City" in the opinion of Gerald L. Revell, chairman of the executive committee for industry in the Little Company of Mary Hospital Campaign.

In a letter to THE HERALD this week, Revell, president of Cal-Metal Corp. and a leader in the movement to secure the new 125-bed hospital for Torrance, also deplored the attempt to organize a district hospital at public expense.

Revell wrote: "Dear Sir: 'All of us share in a feeling of gratification that Torrance has been selected an All America City. In one respect, however, we are far from qualifying as such a city—we have less than half the number of hospital beds in the community to meet the minimum hospitalization requirements as defined by the State Department of Public Health.

Movement Noted "As chairman of the Industry Committee for the Little Company of Mary Hospital Campaign, which seeks \$776,000 to create 125 additional beds, it has been my privilege to work with others toward qualifying Torrance as an All America hospital city.

"During the holiday period I became aware of a movement now being promoted in Torrance to form a Hospital District for this city. Petitions are being circulated with the intent of forming this district in order to build a tax-supported, politically operated hospital here.

Nothing Illegal "There is nothing illegal about this, but there certainly is a question as to whether it is advisable—as to whether it is good, All America planning. "Like a good many other civic endeavors, the district hospital is a complex undertaking. In the first place, the district hospital, being tax supported, receives most of its construction and maintenance funds from industry and business. It is my sincere belief that executives of our industrial and business firms would prefer to give freely toward a voluntary, non-profit hospital of highest medical standards rather than to be taxed year after year for a district hospital. Free enterprise always has been, and I hope always will be, the All America way. I can see where critical differences of opinion might crop up among those who support and those who oppose a district hospital in Torrance. It might be urged by those who

are seeking to obtain a District Hospital that since industry must bear the lion's share of the cost then the workingman and his family should naturally sign petitions and vote 'yea' in the hospital election.

Each Can Give "We all know what kind of deep divisions and bitterness this leads to. Is it worth such attainment as may be expected? Is it not to more avail if each segment of the economy of Torrance gives what it can—of its own free will—to the Little Company of Mary fund drive?

"At any rate, can we not say to those who are already working for this hospital district: 'Can't you wait until it is seen what we can provide of our own free will? Surely, anyone can see that two new hospitals in Torrance is much more than enough.

"Do you think we might hope to hear from those who are agitating for a hospital district here and get their views on the matter? "GERALD L. REVELL."